

Message Text

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ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EA-06 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 INR-05

CIAE-00 SCA-01 SR-02 L-01 ORM-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 PM-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3410

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 6602

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, RP

SUBJECT: E&E EVACUATION THROUGH PHILIPPINES

REFS: A. MANILA 5431; B. STATE 099172; C. MANILA 6414;
D. STATE 110679; E. STATE 112880

1. PHILIPPINE POSITION WITH RESPECT USE OF PHILIPPINE
TERRITORY FOR REFUGEES FROM VIET-NAM WAS SET FORTH REF A.
DEPARTMENT, IN REF B, ACCEPTED THAT POSITION, AND ALL OUR
OPERATIONS WITH RESPECT VIETNAMESE REFUGEES HAVE BEEN IN
SUBSTANTIAL COMPLIANCE WITH THESE CONDITIONS UNTIL ABOUT
ONE WEEK AGO.

2. ABOUT A WEEK AGO, REFUGEE PIPELINE CLOGGED AT GUAM
AND WE HAVE RECEIVED NO RPT NO AIRLIFT TO MOVE REFUGEES
SINCE THAT TIME. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE THUS BEEN IN EFFECTIVE
VIOLATION OF CONDITIONS ACCEPTED IN REF B, WE HAVE RECEIVED
NO RPT NO EXPLANATION FOR THIS SUDDEN CHANGE, NOR HAVE WE
BEEN ASKED TO SEEK EXEMPTION FROM CONDITIONS WE HAVE
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ACCEPTED.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, AT SPECIFIC REQUEST OF DEPARTMENT, I SOUGHT AND OBTAINED GOP EXEMPTION FROM CONDITIONS FOR THOSE CAMBODIANS WHO ARRIVED ON CAMBODIAN NAVAL VESSELS, AFTER HAVING GIVEN ASSURANCE THAT U.S. WOULD ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEM AND MOVE THEM EASTWARD "IN A FEW DAYS." CAMBODIANS HAVE NOW BEEN PROCESSED, BUT WE STILL HAVE RECEIVED NO PERMISSION TO MOVE THEM ONWARD.

4. IN REF C, I SUGGESTED WE BE AUTHORIZED MOVE REFUGEES FROM SINGAPORE FLOTILLA EASTWARD TO GUAM. DEPT. HAS NEVER ACKNOWLEDGED OR ANSWERED THAT CABLE.

5. IN REFS D AND E, DEPT. HAS LAID OUT CERTAIN PROPOSALS FOR HANDLING REFUGEES FROM SINGAPORE. THESE INDICATE (A) THAT WE WILL ACCEPT AND PROCESS THOSE WHO COME IN NAVAL VESSELS. (B) WE WILL ALSO FACILITATE TRANSIT OF THOSE WHO WISH TO PROCEED TO GUAM UNDER THEIR OWN STEAM. (C) WE ARE REQUESTED TO SEEK GOP CONCURRENCE IN PROPOSAL THAT ALL OTHERS WILL BE HELD, PROBABLY AT SUBIC, PENDING UNHCR SCREENING, WHILE GIVING GOP ASSURANCE THAT PHILIPPINES WILL NOT BE EXPECTED TAKE FINAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR RESETTLEMENT. IT IS NOT RPT NOT STATED WHO WOULD ACCEPT SUCH RESPONSIBILITY, BUT IT IS APPARENT THAT U.S. NAVY WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR CARE AND FEEDING.

6. IT IS OUR ESTIMATE THAT BULK OF REFUGEE STREAM COMING FROM SINGAPORE WILL MOVE ONWARD TO GUAM EITHER BECAUSE WE TAKE THEM OFF NAVAL VESSELS OR BECAUSE THEY WILL SAIL THEIR ON THEIR OWN. THEREFORE, WE ARE PROBABLY TALKING AT MOST ABOUT A FEW HUNDRED PERONS WHO WOULD FALL IN CATEGORY DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH 5 (C) ABOVE.

7. IT IS MY GUESS THAT IF I WERE TO GO TO THE PHILIPPINE AUTHORITIES AND ASK THEIR CONCURRENCE IN THE PROPOSAL OUTLINED IN 5 (C), ASSURING THEM THAT THE U.S. NAVY WILL CARE FOR AND FEED THEM MEANWHILE, THEY WILL PROBABLY, WITH SOME RELUCTANCE, CONCUR.

8. HOWEVER, I DO NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE I CAN GO TO THEM WITH
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THIS REQUEST UNTIL WE HAVE COMPLIED IN GOOD FAITH WITH OUR PREVIOUS UNDERTAKINGS ABOUT TRANSIT OF REFUGEES THROUGH SUBIC. IF I WERE TO CALL THEIR ATTENTION TO FACT THAT THERE ARE CURRENTLY SOME 2200 VIETNAMESE AT SUBIC WHO ARE THERE IN VIOLATION OF OUR PREVIOUS UNDERTAKINGS AND THAT 700 CAMBODIANS ARE STILL HERE DESPITE THE FACT THEY HAVE BEEN PROCESSED, I AM SURE TO RAISE A GREAT MANY QUESTIONS I AM NOT RPT NOT EQUIPPED TO ANSWER.

9. GOP WILL WANT TO KNOW WHY THERE HAS BEEN NO AIRLIFT FOR OVER A WEEK, WHY (AS IS WELL PUBLICIZED IN PHILIPPINE PRESS) THREE PROCESSING CENTERS IN U.S. ARE NOT BEING USED TO CAPACITY (PRESS SAYS THERE ARE ONLY 2500 AT EGLIN), WHY THERE IS BOTTLENECK AT GUAM AND WHEN IT IS EXPECTED TO BE RELIEVED, ETC.

10 IN ABSENCE ANY WASHINGTON GUIDANCE, I CAN ONLY ASSUME BACKWASH IN SYSTEM RESULTS SOMEHOW FROM FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES, AND ABSENCE NEW FUNDING BY CONGRESS. HOWEVER, PRESS REPORTING HAS ALSO TENDED TO CONFUSE THIS ISSUE AS WELL BECAUSE THERE HAVE BEEN SOME STATEMENTS REPORTED HERE WHICH SUGGEST THAT FUNDS ARE BEING TRANSFERRED FROM DOD ACCOUNTS VOTED FOR VIET-NAM.

11. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF I CAN BE INFORMED WHAT ACTION IS EXPECTED, AND WHEN, TO CLEAR CURRENT BACKLOG AT SUBIC. IT WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL TO KNOW WHEN WE CAN EXPECT TO AIRLIFT CAMBODIANS TO PENDLETON. IT WOULD FURTHER HELP IF WE COULD HAVE AN ESTIMATE OF TIME CATEGORIES OF VIETNAMESE LISTED IN PARA 5 (A) AND (B) WILL REQUIRE TO TRANSIT SUBIC, AND ESPECIALLY WHETHER WE CAN EXPECT THEM TO MOVE IN LESS THAN 72 HOURS.

12. WE HAVE PERHAPS 12 TO 24 HOURS BEFORE FIRST OF SINGAPORE FLOTILLA ARRIVES AT SUBIC. AN EARLY REPLY WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
SULLIVAN

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